

Happy
Birthday



U.S. Army!!

U.S. Army!!

Written and Illustrated
by
Army Child & Youth Services




This book belongs to:

U.S. Army's 233rd Birthday
June 14, 2008
Army Strong since 1775



Foreword



Everybody loves to celebrate a birthday. Getting a little bit older each year is part of growing up. Each year, we are able to do more and more things better and better.

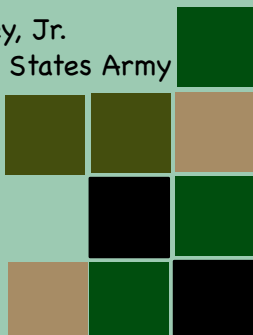
The Army likes to celebrate its birthday too. It has done many things as it 'grew up' during its history. This little book tells the story of the Army and some of the people that have been a part of it for its 233 years.

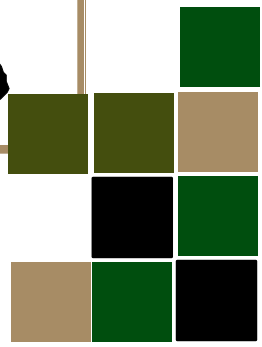
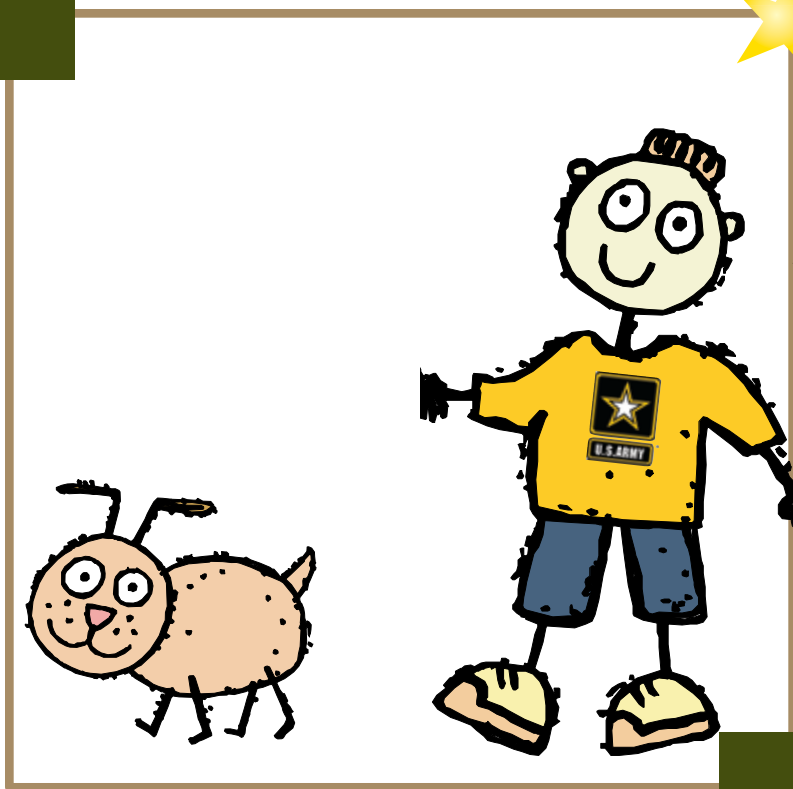
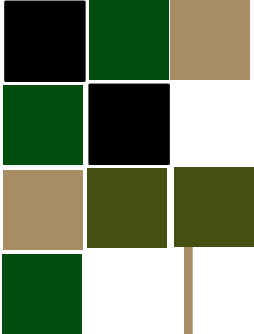
We hope you enjoy this story. You and your Family are all a part of the Army Family.

Let's celebrate our Army's 233rd Birthday together!!!

Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army





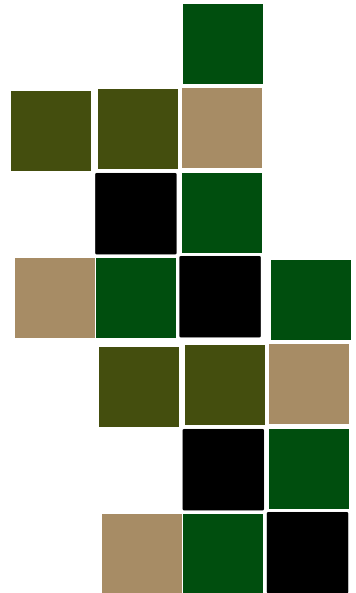


This is my Family. My Mom, my Dad, my baby Brother, my Sister, and my Grandpa and Grandma. Oh, and Sam, my dog.

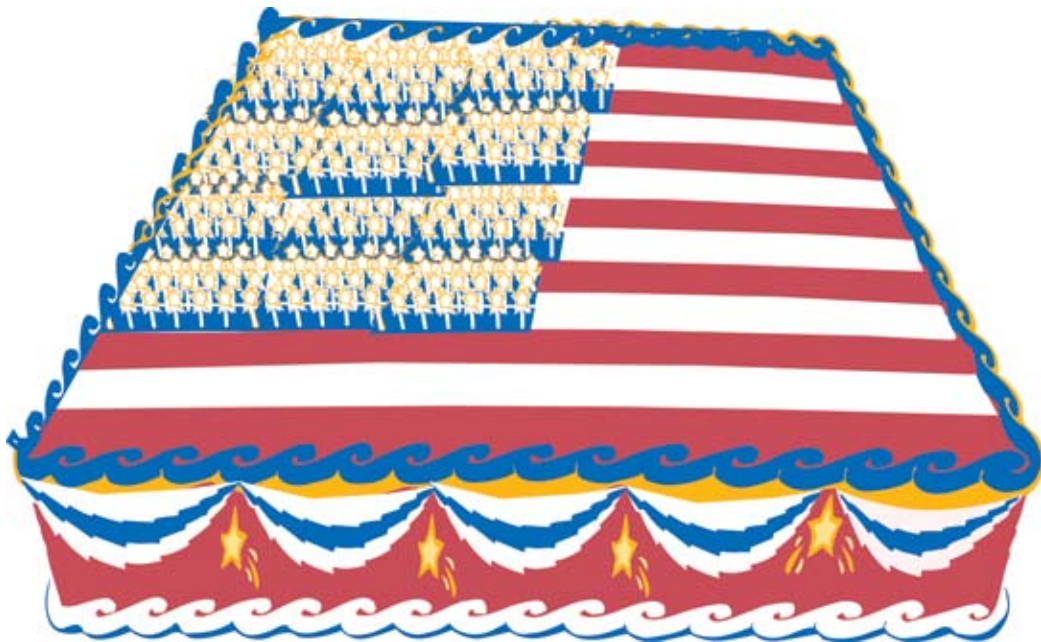
My Dad is a Soldier in the United States Army. He says that makes me special because I have TWO Families, our Family, and the Army Family. My Family celebrates birthdays. The Army Family celebrates birthdays, too!



Today is Grandpa's birthday. We are having a party. That's what Families do. There sure are a lot of candles on Grandpa's cake!!!



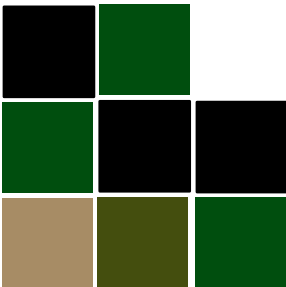
The Army is having a birthday party, too! There are even MORE candles on the Army's birthday cake. There are 233 of them. Lots of candles mean the Army is very old. Older than Grandpa!



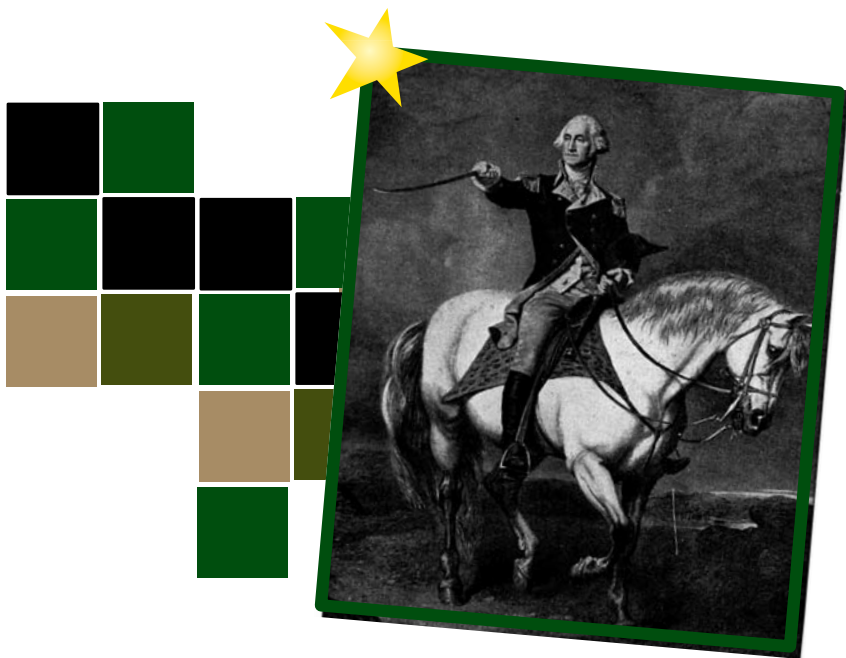
Grandpa can tell a lot of stories about our Family. Grandma calls this our Family history. The Army has a lot of stories too! Dad says this is the Army history.



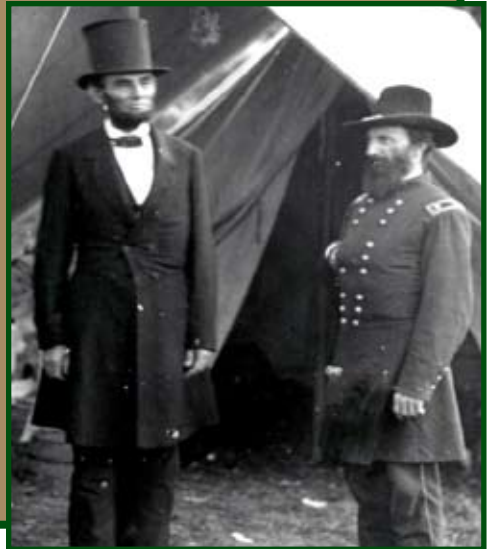
That's right, said Mom. My favorite Army story is about George Washington. He was the first President of the United States. But before he was President, he was a Soldier who fought to make our country free. He spent a lot of time away from his Family.



Because my Dad is a Soldier, he has to leave home sometimes, just like George Washington. When he leaves, I am sad, but I try my very best to be strong. Mom says I am "Army Strong."



Grandma says her favorite Army story is about how President Abraham Lincoln had the Army fight to keep the country together during the Civil War. That was a war when sometimes even brothers fought with each other. Grandma says Mr. Lincoln knew that the Army had to win that fight so we would still be the "United States." I'm glad my brother and I don't fight...except about whose turn it is to feed Sam.





Grandpa tells me a story about the Buffalo Soldiers. It's really cool! The Native American Indians thought black Soldiers were as strong and powerful as the mighty buffalo, and gave them the nickname "Buffalo Soldiers" as a sign of respect.

I asked Dad if there are any stories about women in the Army. He said that early in the Second World War, women flew planes outside of combat and helped planes land safely and even predicted the weather. They belonged to the "WACS," the Women's Army Corps.

The Army also needed nurses to help care for sick Soldiers. They were the first Army Nurse Corps.

Now women can do almost every job in the Army. My sister thinks that's really neat. So do I!





Mom said, "Have I ever told you the story of the Native American Code Talkers?" The Code Talkers were able to send messages to each other in their own languages. Because no one could speak their language, the Army could send secret messages to its Soldiers. They helped keep American Soldiers safe in World War II.



Dad says that the Army has more than just Soldiers in it. Some people don't wear uniforms, but they do a lot of important things in the Army. These civilians are also a part of the Army Family. When my little brother goes to the "CDC," Miss Anna takes care of him. She's a civilian.



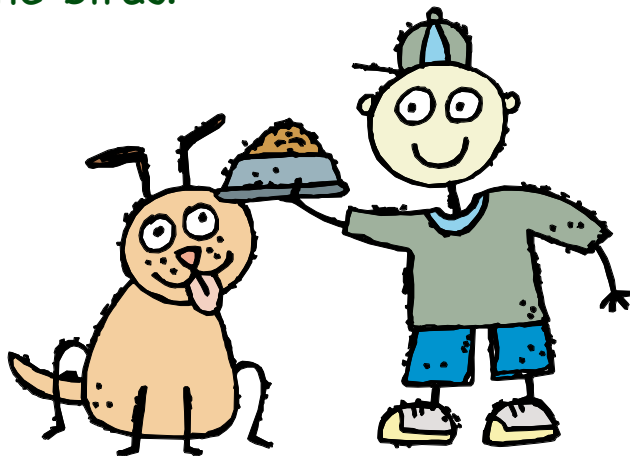
Dad says the Army includes all sorts of people. "Just think about your friends. Hector is a Latino and his uncle just retired. He was in the Army for 25 years! Kim's grandfather was in a famous Japanese-American Unit in World War II. And Jamal's mom, who is in the same unit as I am, comes from Haiti."

Gee, I didn't know how many different people there are in our Army Family.





Grandpa says that animals are part of the Army's history, too. Way before e-mail, the Army used birds called carrier pigeons to send messages. Horses and mules helped carry equipment and supplies. There are even dogs that work with Soldiers today. I don't think Sam would make a very good Army dog though. He would chase the birds!



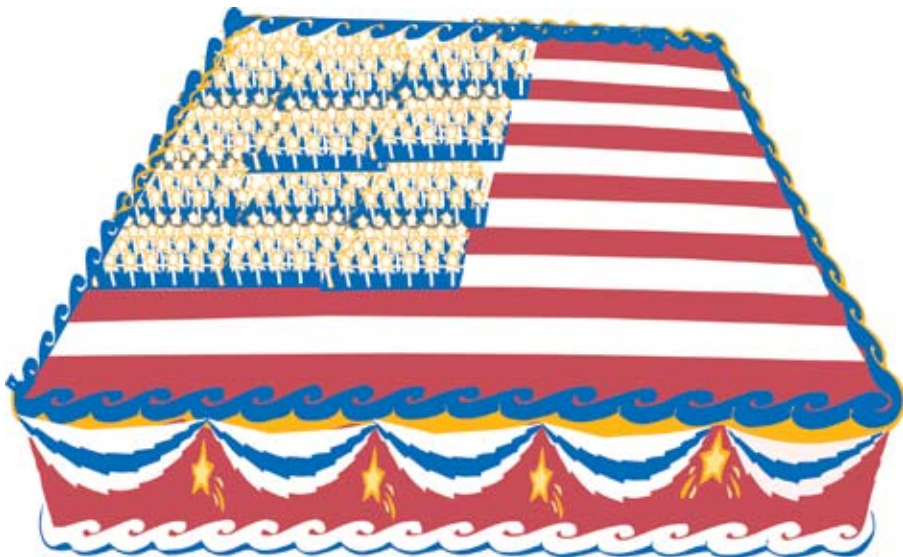


Wow! The Army has a lot of history!
Because my family is an Army Family, we're
part of the Army Family history.
I'm proud that my Dad is an Army Soldier
and that we are an Army Family.

The Army is also proud of my Family. They
help take care of us when my Dad is far
away. They say that together we are
"Army Family Strong."



So Happy Birthday, Army.
Let's all blow out the candles!!!



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